

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 12, 13, 15, 17-19, 21-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,281,937 to Young ("Young"). Claims 12, 14, 16-19, 21, 22, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,951,018 to Schmiedel et al. ("Schmiedel et al."). In addition, claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young or Schmiedel et al. Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmiedel et al.

In this response, claim 12 has been amended. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 12-25 continue to be pending.

Withdrawal of the objections and rejections in view of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Young:

Claims 12, 13, 15, 17-19, 21-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Young.

Young describes an electromagnetic contactor having a housing receiving an armature, a coil subassembly, and return springs. A pair of stationary terminals 120 each having a U-shaped blade includes a threaded screw extrusion 134 and a pair of quick connect terminals 138 that protrude outside of the housing 2. See, e.g. Fig. 14.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to specify that each terminal contact includes a first connection device *disposed inside the housing* and that at least one of the terminal contacts includes a second connection device *disposed inside the housing*. (Emphasis added.) Support for the amendments to claim 12 is found in the original application, for example, at Fig. 6, which clearly show a first connection device 41 and a second connection device 52 disposed inside of housing 2.

Applicants respectfully submit that Young et al. fails to disclose first and second connection devices disposed inside of a housing. On the contrary, the Young element 138 of terminal 120 -- asserted by the Examiner to correspond to a pluggable connection device -- is shown protruding outside of housing 2.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 12, 13, 15, 17-19, 21-23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Young is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Schmiedel et al.:

Claims 12, 14, 16-19, 21, 22, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schmiedel et al.

Schmiedel et al. describes an electromagnetic connector having a housing assembly that may be adapted for one, two, three, or four poles. Stationary contact 190 is formed to include “fast-on” connections protruding from housing (base 216 and contact block 166) and also a terminal screw 198. See Fig. 3 and column 5, lines 11-23.

Applicants respectfully submit that Schmiedel fails to disclose the feature of a terminal contact having first and second connection devices disposed inside of the housing as recited in independent claim 12. As shown in Fig. 3, contact block 166 is fitted together with base 216 and cover 158, leaving at least the “fast-on” connections of stationary contact 190 disposed on the outside of the housing.

Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 12, 14, 16-19, 21, 22, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schmiedel et al. is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young or Schmiedel et al. and claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmiedel et al. Claims 20 and 24 depend from claim 12.

As discussed above, both Young and Schmiedel fail to teach at least the feature recited in independent claim 12 of first and second connection devices disposed inside of the housing. Applicants furthermore submit that neither Young nor Schmiedel suggest that feature as well, since they both specifically show connection devices protruding from or outside of the respective housings.


Withdrawal of the rejections to claims 20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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